

Marchetti

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AN INTERVIEW WITH VICTOR MARCHETTI

DON LARK: This is Don Lark. In this report, former Central Intelligence agent, Victor Marchetti, tells me about his court battle over a book about the CIA he's been told he can't publish and about his private life.

What are the chances you'll eventually have to take the case to the Supreme Court?

VICTOR MARCHETTI: Well, I think there's a very good chance for that. I think we've operated on that assumption from the beginning. I know the publishers did. Whether that actually comes to pass, I don't know. But I think -- I think it's a very good possibility. A lot will depend, of course, on what the appellate court comes up with. If the appellate court can give us satisfactory relief, then we -- you know, we'll probably accept that. And then the real test will come the next time I have something ready for publication. And then we'll see where we go from there.

LARK: Well naturally, the CIA is well aware of the books you've written and the one you're working on. Have you in any way been harassed by them in your private life?

MARCHETTI: Oh, not -- not in such a way that I've wanted to speak about it.

LARK: Are you being followed?

MARCHETTI: Oh, I don't know. I don't think so. I hope not. Well, one -- you know, one never knows. When you read Jack Anderson's column when he quotes from secret FBI files about the FBI spying on -- who was it the other day? -- Tony Randall and stuff like this, I mean you begin to think anything's possible. But my feeling is that I'm not -- probably not being followed, probably not -- probably don't have my phone tapped.

LARK: Would you be able to tell as a former CIA agent

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if you were?

MARCHETTI: No. No, I couldn't tell if I was being tapped. There're just too many very sophisticated ways. I probably could tell if I was being -- if I were under surveillance if I put my mind to it. But I operate on the principle that anything I do or say will become known to the agency and the public eventually. And so I have nothing -- nothing really to hide.

You know, I lead a rather quiet life here in suburbia. I've got a kid who goes to parochial school, our youngest one, and the other two are in junior high and high school. And I don't hang out in barrooms or even bother to play poker with the boys. I fix the ground house (?) and work in my vegetable garden and write and have friends over once in a while and go out once in a while.

So I feel I have nothing to hide.

LARK: It's just that your -- your typewriter's making too much noise.

MARCHETTI: Exactly. That's my problem.

LARK: This has been a WAVA special report. Your comments are welcome. I'm Don Lark.